

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5986

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: CENTO
SUBJ: EXPANDED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CENTO ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 187189

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED AVAILABLE PLANNING FOR THE CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (CMCS) IN SEARCH OF A COST SHARING FORMULAE WHICH WE COULD SUGGEST TO THE DEPARTMENT. WE HAD HOPED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE TO SIMPLY DIVIDING UP THE TOTAL CMCS COST IN PERCENTAGES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE LOOKED FOR A BASIS UNDER WHICH THE U.S. AND IRAN MIGHT FUND THE PROJECTS FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS WHILE THE U.K. PROVIDED TRAINING AND PAKISTAN AND TURKEY LOCAL CURRENCIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MOST RECENT DATA ON CMCS IS A 1976 U.S. ARMY CONCEPT PLAN WHICH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A FEASIBILITY STUDY (THE PLAN SHOULD BE ON FILE AT THE PENTAGON). COST BREAKOUTS ARE IN GROSS 1976 DOLLARS BUT THIS PLAN DOES SHOW THAT OVER 90 PERCENT OF CMCS COSTS WOULD BE FOR EQUIPMENT, O&M, AND TRAINING. LOCAL COSTS FOR CONSTRUCTION, LABOR AND TRANSPORTATION WOULD AMOUNT TO LESS THAN 5 PERCENT EACH FOR TURKEY AND PAKISTAN. IN ADDITION, THE ARMY PLAN IS NOT SPECIFIC IN IDENTIFYING ALTERNATIVES TO U.S. EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. COST BREAKOUTS IN 1976 DOLLARS
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ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MAJOR EQUIPMENT	\$1,336,600
MINOR INSTALLATION MATERIALS	45,300
TMDE (REPAIR EQUIPMENT)	106,000
SPARES	801,680
DOCUMENTATION	588,500
TRANSPORTATION/PACKING/HANDLING	313,800

TRAINING/OJT FOR 2 YEARS	620,000
INSTALLATION/O&M FOR 1 YEAR	1,185,000
TOTAL	\$4,996,880

2. IN ADDITION TO THE LACK OF FINANCIAL DATA ON WHICH TO PROPOSE A COST SHARING FORMULAE, THERE ARE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. BOTH PAKISTAN AND TURKEY STILL HOLD THE U.S. TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S 1975 PLEDGE OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TOWARD CMCS. IN ADDITION TO POINTING OUT THEIR CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY ARE LIKELY TO ARGUE THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PICK UP ONLY A SHARE OF CMCS COSTS OVER AND ABOVE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. (NOTE: OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF PROJECT COST IS NOW 6.9 MILLION IN 1979 DOLLARS) IRAN IS ON RECORD AS BEING WILLING TO SHARE IN CMCS COSTS, BUT AT THE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE IN MAY, THE IRANIANS NOTED THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION COULD BE ONLY AN EQUAL SHARE. THE U.K. HAS NOT EXPRESSED ANY POSITION ON COST SHARING.

3. MOST MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES ARE NOW ON VACATION, AND WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE ACTIVITY AT CENTO UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 25 COUNCIL MEETING. CENTO'S COMBINED MILITARY PLANNING STAFF HAS, AT OUR URGING, REISSUED ITS MAY 1978 REQUEST FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT EACH MEMBER COUNTRY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD CMCS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, NOT SANGUINE THAT THE CMPS LETTER WILL GET MUCH ATTENTION IN ALLIED CAPITALS UNTIL A FORMULAE IS NEGOTIATED AT THE COUNCIL

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OF DEPUTIES LEVEL.

4. IF A FORMULAE IS TO BE DEvised IN TIME FOR THE FY 80 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUDGET CYCLE, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD BY ANNOUNCING WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL CMCS COSTS IT WILL BE WILLING TO BEAR.

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